

## Local Items.

The office of the *Columbia Phoenix* is on Gates street, second door from Plain.

His Excellency Governor Magrath arrived in this city yesterday, and took quarters at the Shiver House.

The magazine, situated near the river, containing about ten thousand pounds of powder, exploded yesterday evening. As far as we could learn, no lives were lost.

**WELLS—NEGROES.**—It is suggested, by sundry citizens, that the wells in the burnt district should be covered in some secure way to prevent accidents. It is thought that a few score of the idle negroes about town should be impressed and made to earn their perridge, by doing some moderate degree of labor within their strength and adapted to the delicacy of their constitutions. Certainly, the condition of daily food to these paupers should be daily labor, whether this be allotted by their owners or by the city authorities. It appears to be the Yankee plan and policy to set coffee to work, in some fashion, and to direct his labors to a commendable promptness, by an occasional prick of the bayonet in flank or rear. We could certainly find bayonets for the purpose.

### Correspondence.

DEAR SIR: Enclosed please find check for \$500, a fund which I have been requested by the members of my company to present to the sufferers in Columbia. Very respectfully,  
J. MEIGHAN,  
Captain Commanding Richland Cavalry.  
To Hon. T. J. GOODWYN.

COLUMBIA, May 1, 1865.

*Capt. John Meighan*—DEAR SIR: I acknowledge with much pleasure your letter of today, covering \$500, as a donation to the sufferers of this city. For this most opportune contribution, I beg that you will present to your command the sincere thanks of this community, and receive for yourself, personally, the assurance of my high respect and esteem. Very respectfully and truly,

T. J. GOODWYN, Mayor of Columbia.

**MUSICAL GENIUS IN CHARLESTON.**—On Easter Tuesday, Mr. Ball (?) and Miss North, (?) under the direction of Professors Berkham and Gambati, were to have appeared at a concert at Hibernian Hall, Charleston. "It is a mistake," says the *Courier*, "to suppose that Charleston is deserted, or that it ever lacked musical proficiency, especially among its daughters. But the modesty," &c. It speaks elsewhere, in the same paragraph, of their "taste and skill," and their "fresh and magnificent voices." Will none of our refugee friends from Charleston identify for us these magnificently voiced damsels, who, most unlike the Hebrews, suffer themselves to take the Charleston harp from its willows, sing for the satisfaction of their enemies and conquerors?

**HONOR WOMEN!**—They scatter heavenly roses on the path of our earthly life; they weave the happy bonds of love; and beneath the modest veil of the graces, they nourish with a sacred hand the immortal flower of noble sentiments.

## The Banana.

The BANANA has been cultivated in some instances, and with a moderate degree of success, as far North in our States as South Carolina. But here it assumes no hardy character. We have no doubt that along the sandy slopes of Texas, proper pains-taking would make it flourish. Fruits and flowers acquire hardihood in colder regions. There was a time when it was thought that the grape could not flourish in Italy, in those very provinces which are now considered its native region. We are not to be discouraged by failures in our experiments. Perseverance achieves through a thousand obstacles. And the banana is worth many experiments. It is not only a delicious fruit, but of vast importance in all tropical countries:

Both in tropical Asia and America, almost every hut has its plantain tree. In the great number of different forms of plantain, the size, form and taste of the fruit are exceedingly different. The question has long since been started as to how far this has been derived from one or several species. In America, there are only two especially distinguishable forms. The *banana de terra*, (with long, straight and decidedly three-cornered fruit, on distinct stems, and with a fresh, juicy pulp,) and the *Banana de St. Thome*, (with smaller, blunt, roundish, and soft, sweet fruit). In tropical Asia and the islands of the Pacific Ocean the different forms amount nearly to half a hundred. Although the Banana has not been found growing wild in America, with any degree of certainty, various points of Asia furnish, at present, this plant in its original form; a fact which speaks most decidedly for the question of its origin, as it is rarely propagated by seeds, but principally by its suckers. Roxburgh found it growing wild on the coast of Coromandel, Rumphius and Blanco on the Philippines, Loureiro in Cechin-China, Finlayson on the small island of Pulo-Ubi, near Siam, and so on to Ceylon.

The names used for this plant in Asia and America deserve a little further attention. In America there is no indigenous name, while Asia furnishes names in the Sanscrit, Chinese, and Malayan languages, even to the definition of the different forms. It is very probable that all the forms of the Banana are derived from a single stock, the original locality of which belongs to tropical Asia, since the American and Asiatic plants are scarcely distinguishable systematically; and the genus *Musa* is represented exclusively in Asia, and not in America.

**YANKEE MILITARY GOVERNOR.**—We are told of a Yankee military governor in North Carolina. These officers are established in all the States, wherever the enemy have found a partial foothold, and we are not to exaggerate their importance. We have had one for some time on the sea-board of South Carolina, and the Georgia sea board has been favored in the same manner. But Gov. Brown still lords it in the rest of the State, and Gov. Magrath still keeps his dignities in ours. As to the proclamation of emancipation of slaves, that, we believe, is virtually, if not solemnly, made, wherever the enemy plants his cannon, or unfurls his flag. But there can be no military movement *de novo*, while the truce shall continue.

### Notice.

ALL persons indebted to the COLUMBIA PHOENIX, are requested to make immediate payment. In the future, the CASH SYSTEM will be rigidly enforced.  
may 2 JULIAN A. SHELBY.

**DOMESTIC LIFE.**—How sweet is it when the heart expands and the mind kindles by reciprocal kindness and knowledge! And sweeter far in domestic life is it to rest the wearied heart and mind of the chastened expression of sympathy lighting up the well-known and beloved countenance of one who has often treated our sorrows with compassion, returned long suffering to our tryingness, and shown enduring fidelity in our burden—endeared to us like a gallant ship, which, though the gloss of its new paint and rigging may be worn less bright, yet, in its very scars, marks the tenacity with which its anchors have held, and its rudder answered the helmsman, through many a storm and tempest.

**ORANGES AND LEMONS IN CALIFORNIA.**—The attempt to grow oranges and lemons in California is every year becoming more successful. The principal groves are at Los Angeles, where there are half a dozen men engaged in the business. Oranges are grown in other places in the State, but mainly in gardens, and for private use. There were about 60,000 oranges and 30,000 lemons grown last year at Los Angeles; this year, nearly 100,000 oranges and 40,000 lemons have been raised in that vicinity. The oranges grown this year are larger and in every way better than last year's crop, and sold at the grove at \$3 per hundred. The largest growers are two Frenchmen at the Mission San Gabriel, whose crop last year amounted to about 25,000 oranges, beside a quantity of lemons.

The Sabbath is the green oasis, the little grassy meadow in the wilderness, when after the week day's journey, the pilgrim halts for refreshment and repose; where he rests beneath the shade of the lofty palm trees, and dips his vessel in the waters of the calm, clear stream, and receives his strength to go forth again upon his pilgrimage in the desert with renewed vigor and cheerful-ness.

The past winter in Europe appears to have been more severe than in this country. In Scotland, the snows have been almost unprecedented. Deer and all kinds of game were starved out. Great numbers of sheep perished, and even houses were so covered up with snow, that the neighbors had to assist in digging out the inhabitants. The English poor have been great sufferers during the winter from the cold and want of employment, especially among the cotton spinners.

On Saturday, the 4th of March, the following Senators of the United States Congress retired from their seats in that body: Nathaniel A. Farwell, of Maine; John P. Hale, of New Hampshire; John C. Ten Eyck, of New Jersey; John S. Carlile, of (the so called State of) Virginia; Wm. A. Richardson, of Illinois; Lazarus W. Powell, of Kentucky; Benjamin F. Harding, of Oregon; and Martin A. Wilkinson, of Minnesota.

If you hear a man say that he hasn't a friend in the world, you may be pretty sure he doesn't deserve one.

### A. F. M.

A REGULAR communication of Richland Lodge will be held THIS (Wednesday) AFTERNOON, at 4 o'clock, at the Hall in the College Campus. A full attendance is desired, as the Second Degree will be conferred. By order of the W. M.  
may 6 1 R. TOZER, Secretary.